(ix) Provision in the agreement with the contractors for compliance of safety rules and regulations as per statute.

General:

(1) Internal Safety Organization has been activised.

(2) Safety Audit has been introduced in all the mines to identify the dangers and steps have been taken to mitigate such potential dangers.

(3) To bring awareness among workmen on matters of safety, ill effects of consumption of alcohol etc. multi-departmental teams were constituted which went round all the mines to address the workmen directly.

(4) Workers involvement have been increased in safety through their participation in different fora and through training, publicity and propaganda and organising special safety drives.

(5) To recognize the good workers with best safety record on longest accident free service memento are awarded on days of national importance like 15th August and 26th January every year.

(6) The recommendations made at various fora such as, Conferences on Safety in mines, Standing Committees on Safety in Coal Mines, National Dust Prevention Committees, Tripartite and Bipartite Safety Review Meetings, are being implemented.

High Powered Committee on revision of coal royalty

1068. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the high powered Committee report set up for coal royalty revision;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the concerned department and Ministries have been obtained as revision of royalty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Committee constituted by the Government to look into the issue of revision of royalty rates has submitted its report to the Government. The report of the Committee contains recommendations on issues relevant to revision of royalty rates on coal. Consultation with various concerned Ministries and Departments on important issues like revision of royalty rates of coal is an unavoidable part of decision-making process in the Government and the outcome of the consultations on revision of royalty rates of coal can be known only after a decision is taken by the Government.

Recommendations of GoM on merger of subsidiaries of CIL

1069. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to increase efficiency of the core sector, the Union Government is considering merging of seven subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister was considering this issue;

(c) if so, by when the Group of Ministers is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(d) by when, the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A proposal for amalgamation of all subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited into one company was deliberated by a Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister. Consequent upon such deliberations, the Government have not favoured merging of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited into one company, keeping in view the larger interest of efficiency, productivity and competition.